

# Rochester **r** **DX** association

rdxa.com



ROCHESTER **DX** ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1947-2007 + 60 YEARS OF DX IN WNY

DECEMBER 2007

## Regular Meeting

\*\*\*\*January 15, 2008 19:30 local

**NapaGino's**

PennFair Plaza, corner of Rts 250 & 441

**NEW LOCATION FOR JAN, FEB, MARCH**

## January Program

**AWA Presentation by K2MP**

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**Social after the Meeting**  
at NapaGino's

### NEW MEETING LOCATION for January, February and March!

What?! Whaddya mean? Well, due to circumstances beyond our control, our scheduled (and previously confirmed BTW) dates for January, February, and March at Gander Mountain were preempted. Granted, it's a group that's far more "outdoorsy" than us (and that's a requirement for using the room for gratis). Regardless, we had to come up with an alternative location.

With the grand times and great support we've had from the folks at NapaGino's, we decided to see if they'd be willing to let out the small banquet room that we've used in our previous dinners for what would be a much smaller group than they'd normally be able to get, and they graciously agreed!

So, for Jan, Feb, and Mar, point your GPS toward NapaGino's in Penfield for the meeting. Here's a timeline of sorts:

- Please join a number of us for Dinner at 5:30 in the "meeting room"

- Otherwise, consider coming early for a coffee, soda, or other beverage and some pre-meeting socialization
- Meeting will be at 7:30, with intros and Program **first**
- Then we'll break for 50-50 tickets followed by any business
- Finally, we don't need to *leave* from here, so plan on extending those quick after-meeting chats by staying around for coffee, dessert, and more socializing!

Wow, we could get to like this! Obviously, it has to work for both us and NapaGino's, but we've got arrangements set for the three months that we got bumped out of Gander. Let's see how it goes!

### Upcoming Programs and Activities

- Gadget Night (**Everybody**)
- Software Defined Radios (**N2RD**) *perhaps including the New K3*
- Packet + Cluster Update: Basics & Advanced features
- Best of the RSGB (**K6PSP**)
- Project Night--Ultimate Headphone Amp?

### And besides regular meetings, we have

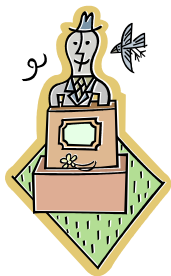
- W2RDX/60 Operating Event #2 (March)
- Joint Awards + /60 Banquet (Apr)
- RDXA tent & booth at the HamFest (June)
- FIELD DAY (June)

And don't forget the informal after meeting and weekly (almost) get-togethers at the Scotch & Sirloin (the "S&S") (We should expand our mission to be DX, Contest, and *Social!*)

### The Podium

By Vic Gauvin -K1PY

Happy holidays! As usual, coming upon us way too quickly. Good thing we had our Holiday Dinner as early as we did, and perhaps that was partly responsible for the great



turnout we had. Wonderful to see everybody under more social conditions.

With the holidays, December has to be a "slow" radio month, but there's one thing that we don't want to forget about, and that's the annual Rochester Museum and Science Center's "Holiday Science and Technology Days" for the Rochester area school kids. Traditionally between Christmas and New Year's, this year it's

Thursday through Sunday, December 27-30. RDXA joins the other area clubs to put on demonstrations plus get the kids "on the air" to talk to people across the country and around the world.

RDXA's task is the HF operating portion, and we need your help, as always. When we have the hoped-for gaggle of kids gathered around the HF operator waiting to talk into the microphone, it helps to have a couple of other folks to "prep" them, and have them ready to give their names, etc., when they get their turn. Plus there's lots more things to explain to them and the people with them.

When there's a few members there together, it makes for a far more enjoyable and workable scenario for everyone, members included! So please make every attempt at squeezing in a couple of hours. Contact **Dave N2CK** to get on the schedule, or lacking that, just show up. The clubs have signed up only for the Thurs, Fri, and Sat. dates, and the time is 10-4. You won't regret it, and you can call it your gift to the perpetuation of the hobby we enjoy so much.

With that, again, Happy Holidays!

## 2008 Membership Reminder

Remember that RDXA Membership Renewal for 2008 was due in October. The fee, of \$15.00, remains the same as last year. If you haven't kept your membership up to date, please consider renewing it. Please see **Carey Magee – K2RNY** or any board member at the meetings they will be happy to help you out.



**Our thanks to all who have renewed to date**

**Membership Biographies** - This will return next month – IF I get a bio! Don't be shy! Send me your information – first one I receive will get the February spot and the rest will line up for the following months. It gives you a chance to describe a little bit about yourself (likes, dislikes, modes, equipment, etc). Please submit bios to either me (**N2TWI**) or straight to the Carey (**K2RNY**).

**We know it is a long way off but**

**HOLD THE DATE !!!!!**

## RDXA / RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet

**Changed to FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008**

**Large Banquet Room at NapaGino's**



**More details later!**

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## RMSC- Science and Technology Fair

**By Dave Wright - N2CK**

Once again RDXA will team up with RARA to provide a demonstration of Amateur Radio at the Rochester Museum and Science center – Science and Technology Fair. The current plan is to operate Thursday – Saturday after Christmas. We have all observed and commented on the graying of licensed operators. This is a GREAT opportunity to introduce and showcase what our hobby is all about, to a new generation of potential operators.

So, if you have some time to spare after Christmas and would like to help out at the HF station, let me know. Currently looking for volunteers for either the morning (10 - 1) or afternoon (1 - 4) shifts. We'll be using **W2RDX/60** and will be logging using the **AF2K** tried-n-true method (read paper logs!!). As we continue to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RDXA, I would like to have at least one member covering each shift. Of course, more would be better.

So far the following folks have stepped forward (RDXA and RARA members I know about):

Thursday AM - **AF2K**, **K2RNY**, **K2MP**, **W2JTR**, **KC2PCD**, and **N2CK**

Thursday PM – **AA2YV**

Friday AM – **W2DEW**, **KC2SUE**, and **N2CK**

Friday PM –

Saturday AM – **N2BEG**

Saturday PM – **K2FX** and **K2SKY**

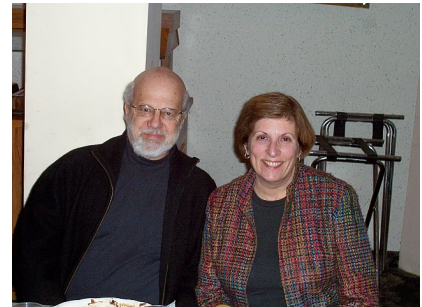
As you can see, there are a couple time slots waiting for you. Give me a call at 392-3183 to reserve your time slot now. It would be so nice to have 2-3 folks available for all shifts.

**Pictures from the 2007 Holiday Party at NapaGino's**

**Submitted by: Alan Masson - K6PSP**



A Wonderful time was had by all!








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## From the ARRL CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET

Submitted by Rick Mintz W1TY

Taking a cue from Jeff Foxworthy, here are some guidelines for all of us.

You might be a ham if...

- You use Penetrox instead of Vick's Vapo-rub for a chest cold.
- Nervous tic means worrying about your ring rotator.
- You make your candy and snack selections based on whether they come in something you can use for a building project.
- Your retinas detect antennas a mile away behind trees - in the dark
- You are perfectly happy listening to broadcast stations obscured by static, sky-wave, and mobile flutter. You barely even notice!
- Your wedding gift registry is at Ham Radio Outlet
- Santa ever asked you as a youngster to "not be quite so technical"
- No appliance is ever discarded at your house with a perfectly good power cord still attached
- The nifty recipe holder the kids made you winds up on the workbench as a soldering aid
- You can with dispatch a flying insect with one well-aimed squirt of Freeze Mist
- Hitchhikers open the passenger door, take one look, and close the door again
- "Temporary" really means "Until I die or we move"

originally from, **Ward N0AX**

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## Incorporation Progress

Thank you to those who have contributed towards the expenses. We have raised \$80 so far, but still have more to go! Donations can be made to the club treasurer (**AF2K**). See last months bulletin for information on this initiative.

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## DXCC Desk Announces New Entity Submitted by Chris Shalvoy K2CS

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with an effective date of 14 December, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments.

### Background:

On February 21, 2007 the French Ministry issued a decree making St Barthelemy an Overseas Collective, making its status equal to that of Guadeloupe, Martinique and other French territories currently on the DXCC List. On November 8, 2007 the President of Association Des Radio Amateurs De St Barthelemy, Philippe Delcroix, FJ5DX, contacted the DXCC Desk, requesting that St Barthelemy be considered a new DXCC entity.

The "event date" that caused St. Barthelemy to be added to the DXCC list was December 14, 2007, the date the US State Department Fact sheet was updated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. This update added St Barthelemy to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty with its Administrative Center in Gustavia, qualifying it under DXCC rules in Section II -- 1 Political Entities (c):

c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

### St Martin

French St Martin (FS), while also added to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty, will remain on the DXCC List, but it is now considered a Point 1 Political Entity under the same classification as that of St Barthelemy.

Please direct any questions you may have about St Barthelemy, St Martin or the DXCC program to the [dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org)

Chris Shalvoy, **K2CS** - Atlantic Division, DXAC

## DX Information K2CS

Chris

I hope you've all "worked your fill" as another crazy contest schedule subsides for a few weeks. As you know, we're "hit" with quite a few contests in a very few weeks when things heat up at the end of October.

From the "work all you can no matter what you have" contests (CQWW) to the more specialized outings, (at least at this point in the solar cycle) ARRL 160m and 10m contests, as always, plenty of opportunities existed, if you had the time to invest.

I always enjoy the ARRL 160m contest, you never know what you'll hear. This year, I took some time off and headed up to **W2CCC** the morning of the contest (after raking "frost bitten" leaves here). A bit of snow upon arrival, nothing like the 60 degree temperatures of last year.

Friday nite, Saturday morning seemed better than the Saturday, Sunday timeframe. A full size 160m dipole does amazing things, like allow you 3 or 4 calls instead of not working them at all.

Not being a "power" guy, the antenna makes up for that. All told, any station I heard, heard me with few exceptions.

This was my third year from Cold Brook but the first time I brought the TS440sat. Granted, the TS50 is a fine rig but the lack of a notch filter and only 1 CW filter has always been a disadvantage to me (on CW). Being able to "notch out" stronger signals and heterodynes is the way you pad your score. Anyone I called came right back, worked with me and generally completed the QSO.

I "missed" several Canadian sections and didn't hear some US ones (WY, ND) but did log 15 DX mults. Worked many Europeans before the US pileups began, Remember... location, antenna, location.

The "location" hit minus 1.8 deg F Saturday nite, that's what 1500' in the Adirondacks gets you.

All told, my best score ever, 72,285.

In closing, FJ hit the airwaves a few days ago, our newest "entity". See specifics elsewhere in the issue.

When these guys came on, SSB was a breeze. CW makes it hard for me to admit that I'm an Amateur Radio operator. Either these new digital rigs are absolutely overrun with digital "hash" or these guys can't copy code. It seems to get worse and worse as time goes on. I honestly can't remember such atrocious operating conditions ever. I'm just glad I don't have to get into those pileups too often anymore.

### IN THE LOG (non contest)

ZF2PI	(60m SSB)
YN2N	(60m SSB)
6W1ST	(40m CW)
HK0/W0OR	(40m CW)
FJ/OH2AM	(20m SSB, 40m CW)

See you in the pileups.

Best DX es 73, - **Chris, K2CS** : Atlantic Division DXAC

## RDXA Club Contests 2007-2008

ARRL RTTY	5-6 January
CQWW 160m CW	25-27 January
WPX RTTY	9-10 February
ARRL DX CW	16-17 February
CQWW 160m SSB	22-24 February
ARRL DX SSB	1-2 March
CQWW WPX SSB	29-30 March
CQWW WPX CW	24-25 May

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### Propagation 11 years ago      AD5Q's notes from Cycle 22

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#### December 1997

#### Solar Flux Range ----- 78-117

And the new cycle is just beginning! With solar fluxes swinging from the 80s to around 120 within a month, it was hard to forecast highband conditions in the CQWW. Geomagnetic conditions were disturbed in the phone portion, but solar activity was high enough to open 15 nicely. For the CW test the flux was also at the high end of its monthly range, but with QUIET geo conditions. Propagation was as good as could be expected from this young cycle.

Evening conditions on 20 Meters were somewhat improved, but it takes a higher flux to open the night paths at this time of year. Long path openings are better and more reliable, but these night paths span the southern hemisphere where it is late spring. The main path to Europe is in the morning, and is a daypath. With the daytime MUF often substantially higher than 14 MHz, the better path to Europe can be found on 15. This was the case during the contest, where many had good rates during runs. However there will still be days when fluxes are under 100, and where 20 will have the better daypath. Since we are now late in the DX season, the polar region is dark. We cannot expect much propagation over high latitude paths on 15 yet, so from W5 there won't be much in the way of Russian openings. Over these difficult paths 20 Meters should be preferred, both at sunrise and at sunset. Use the Antarctic path for southern Asia.

As I write this, the Ten Meter contest is approaching. We have already experienced brief openings to Europe here, mostly to the western parts. The openings to Japan have been better. During the CQWW, many made Asian long path contacts in the morning via the southeast. The east coast had a much better path to Europe with fairly good runs, but these occurred before the band even opened for the rest of us. At best, we can expect about the same conditions for the Ten Meter contest (hoping for high flux and low K- Index). For most of us, this will be mainly a stateside contest with lots of Sporadic-E propagation to provide high rates. We will surf the Caribbean looking for multipliers and pileups, and hope for an opening to Japan for DX runs. This is still a substantial improvement over recent years, and activity should be sharply up this year without the heavy reliance on weak signal backscatter.

The night band with the most quantity is still 40. Europe peaks best before sunset for us and after sunset for the east coast, but it is the same opening. In mid-evening we follow the sunrise across Russia and then Europe after midnight. The peak on 40 will follow the brief sunrise peaks on 80 & 160 to the same area.

..... <http://www.qth.com/ad5q/>

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## Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

NOAA

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity  
19 December 2007 - 14 January 2008

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low. Isolated C-class flares are possible during 01 - 13 January. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels during 19 - 31 December and 10 - 12 January. The geomagnetic field is expected to be at unsettled to active levels during 19 - 20 December due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels during 21 - 24 December as coronal hole effects subside. Quiet conditions are expected during 25 December - 06 January. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels during 06 - 08 January due to recurrence. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 09 - 12 January. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled to active levels during 13 - 14 January due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream.

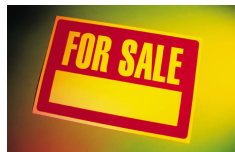
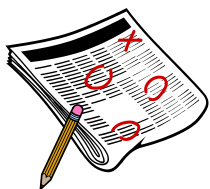
More at: <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/radio/>

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**Remember to schedule some time for operating activity to put W2RDX on the air**



This is a new area, that space permitting, I would like to run each month for members only. Let me know what you are looking to buy or unload.



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**One man's junk is another man's gold!**

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### FOR SALE:

FS: LDG AT-200 Pro auto tuner, mint. \$175.



<http://www.ldgelectronics.com/products.php?cID=1&pID=3&v=1>

73, Redd, AI2N [ai2n@tweny.rr.com](mailto:ai2n@tweny.rr.com)

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### FOR SALE:

1 - Kantronics KPC3 with 128K RAM upgrade. Firmware is version 5.0. TNC comes with cables made up for an HTX-202, but should work with most Icom, Standard, and Yaesu HTs as well. Asking \$45 or would consider trades? I did power the KPC-3 up recently and verified that it is still operating, but I haven't had an active packet station for years and have no plans to revive it.

2 - Sony Model 255 Open Reel Tape Deck, working, with a box of open reel tape. I no longer have a need for it. Make me an offer--I'll take almost anything for it, and swaps are welcome.

3 - Ten Tec 10 amp power supply (the one that matches the Ten Tec Scout) that I am going to list for \$40.

Contact **Lou K2LKK**



Irv's (AF2K) Mother, Marion Goodman received her eternal reward and now sits

beside her maker. Marion passed away peacefully after 99 years of gracing our lives. Marion was a native of Rochester, 1926 graduate of East High School and worked for the City School District from 1926-33. Alumna of Hochstein School of Music, she was a passionate pianist and writer. Active in local Chapter of Pioneer Women's Organization for many years. Contributions can be made to Temple Emanu-El, 2956 St. Paul Blvd., 14617 or a charity of your choice.

*Our sincere thanks to those RDXA members who attended our mom's funeral, assisted at the cemetery, visited at the house, or sent a card of condolence. Your kind expressions of sympathy were gratefully appreciated.*

*Irv Goodman, AF2K  
Shellie Plosscowe, N8WBM*



## ROCHESTER **DX** ASSOCIATION

W2RDX

rdxa.com

This Bulletin is the official organ of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Gayle, N2TWI at the addresses below by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 local time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, September through June.

**President** -----Vic Gauvin – K1PY/k1py@frontiernet.net

**Vice President**-----Still available position

**Treasurer**-----Irv Goodman – AF2K/af2k@juno.com

**Recording Sec.** -----Chris Shalvoy – K2CS/chris@k2cs.net

### Board of Directors

Carey Magee – K2RNY -----k2rny@frontiernet.net

Doug Stewart – N2BEG -----stewarts@rochester.rr.com

Alan Masson – K6PSP -----k6psp@arrl.net

Chris Shalvoy – K2CS -----K2CS/chris@k2cs.net

### Appointed Positions

DX Chairman -----Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Packet Cluster Sys Op -----Bob Hunter, NG2P

Webmaster-----Scott Hoag, K2ZS

Contest Chairman-----Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

Membership Chairman-----Carey Magee, K2RNY

Newsletter Editor----Gayle Shalvoy, N2TWI/ges@rocsoft.com

**NG2P Packet Cluster** -----144.910 MHz

-----Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net / Port 7300

### Membership Dues (\$15 / year) can be sent to:

Carey Magee  
69 Fairview Crescent  
Rochester, NY 14617

### Any other correspondence to:

Irv Goodman

## Professional Home Inspection

Paul Mackanos – K2DB

92 Schilling Lane



com



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